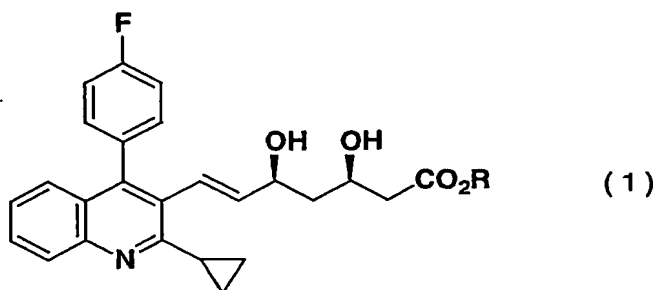


CLAIMS

1. A method for producing a compound of the formula (1):



- which comprises subjecting a solution containing an alkyl
5 (3R,5S)-7-[2-cyclopropyl-4-(4-fluorophenyl)quinolin-3-
yl]-3,5-dihydroxy-6-heptenoate of the formula (1)
(wherein R is a C₁₋₄ alkyl group) to liquid chromatography
treatment using silica gel as the packing material, to
separate its epimers contained therein.
- 10 2. The method according to Claim 1, wherein in the
chromatography treatment, a mixed solvent comprising
hexane/isopropyl alcohol is used as an eluent.
3. The method according to Claim 2, wherein the ratio of
hexane/isopropyl alcohol in the mixed solvent is from
15 99/1 to 50/50 in a volume ratio.
4. The method according to any one of Claims 1 to 3,
wherein the silica gel as the packing material has an
average particle diameter of from 0.1 μ m to 10 mm and an
average pore diameter of from 1 nm to 100 μ m.
- 20 5. The method according to any one of Claims 1 to 4,
wherein the chromatography treatment is a treatment
employing a simulated moving bed apparatus.

6. The method according to Claim 5, wherein either component of the eluent is added to a distillate of the extract and raffinate recovered in the chromatography treatment, to adjust the compositional ratio of the
- 5 distillate to the compositional ratio of the eluent before use, and the distillate so adjusted, is reused.
7. The method according to any one of Claims 1 to 6, wherein R in the compound of the formula (1) is an ethyl group.